

# John

## The Book

The gospel of John brings to a climax the full purpose of God in Christ. In the other three Gospels we have learned what Jesus said—what He did and what He felt. We have seen the high points of His life and ministry—

- His Supernatural Birth
- His Baptism
- His Temptation
- His Transfiguration
- His Crucifixion
- His Resurrection
- His Ascension

In all of the three preceding Gospels we have learned what He was and now John presents the completion of who He was. The other three are a presentation of Christ—John is an interpretation of Him. The first three show Jesus outwardly and John shows Jesus inwardly. John truly exposes the Divine—He is God-Man. The earlier three writers are mainly concerned with our Lord's public utterances while John majors on His private conversations and thoughts.

## The Author

John, the Apostle, is the author. He was the son of Zebedee, the brother of James. (See Matthew 4:21). These two were surnamed by our Lord "The sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17). John wrote three epistles, the Revelation and this gospel. John was the beloved pastor at Ephesus, and later (95 A.D.) he was exiled to Patmos by the Emperor Domitian where he wrote the book of Revelation.

## The Central Truth

"but as many as received Him, to them gave He the power (right or authority) to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name" (John 1:12). Also blazing all through the Gospels is John 20:31: "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."

## The Structure of the Book

1. The Prologue—John 1:1-18
2. His Public Ministry—John 1:19-12:50
3. His Private Ministry—John 13—17
4. His Suffering and Death—John 18-19
5. Victory Over Death—John 20—21

The Prologue—John 1:1-18

- a. In the prologue there are so many things to capture our attention. Notice, however, four names or designations of our Lord: "WORD—LIFE—LIGHT—SON" (notice verses 1,3, 9, 18).
- b. In relation to the Father, He is the Word and the Son. Our Lord Jesus is the Word (verse 1), the expression of God toward all men and also the expression of God before all of creation (verses 2 and 3). Jesus was not from the beginning, He was in the beginning—He was not only with God—He was God (verse 1). Jesus is the Son, "in the bosom" of the Father. . . there can be no eternal Fatherhood without eternal Sonship.
- c. In relation to us, He is Life and Light. From Him radiates all illumination, both intellectual and spiritual (verses 4-9). These two words—life and light—go together, or correspond with the word and son. As the Word, He, Jesus is the expresser, revealer, illuminator, the Light. As the Son, He, Jesus is the quickener, the impartor of life—God in the flesh (incarnate).
- d. Along with these titles there are two other words you should note: "grace" and "truth" (verses 14,16). The incarnate One (the made flesh One) is "full of grace and truth" – full of "grace" to redeem man, and full of "truth" to reveal God—because His is the God-Man, Revealer, Redeemer.
- e. So you won't forget the facts of the prologue you may remember this diagram by comparing verse 1 with verse 14:

Verse 1	Verse 14
In the beginning was the word and the Word was with God and the Word was God	And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth

- f. Note especially John 1:18—"No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared (made manifest—in full view or revelation) Him."
- g. Jesus, the Word, was in the beginning with God. Look up Colossians 1:15-19 and 1 John 5:7.

#### His Public Ministry—John 1:19—12:50

- a. John records seven signs or miracles which prove that Jesus is the Son of God. Nicodemus states this in John 3:2: The seven miracles were:
  - Turning water into wine—John 2:1-11
  - Healing the nobleman's son—John 4:46-54
  - Healing the man at Bethesda—John 5:1-18
  - Feeding the 5,000—John 6:1-14
  - Walking on the water—John 6:15-21
  - Healing the blind man—John 9:1-41
  - Raising of Lazarus—John 11:1-57
- b. John records the "new birth" chapter and Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus—John 3. Read especially—verses 3 through 18.
- c. John records the incident with the Samaritan woman in John 4:1-42. He reveals that He is "the water of life." What did the woman do? Verse 39:
- d. The Fourfold Witness of Christ—John 5:32-47.

In answering the Jews about His miracles, Jesus gives four witnesses of His Messiahship—

1. John the Baptist—John 5:33-35
2. His works—John 5:36
3. The Father—John 5:37-38
4. The Scriptures—John 5:39-47

- e. The healing of the blind man in Chapter 9—Jesus gave the great discourse on the Good Shepherd in chapter 10. Read especially verse 14 and verses 27-30:
- f. The raising of Lazarus is the last “sign” (John 11) in John’s gospel. He had been dead four days, but that made no difference. Notice Martha’s reference to “the resurrection at the last day” (verse 24). Here then is recorded the great words of Jesus on resurrection, death and life—Read verses 25 and 26:

### His Private Ministry—John 13—17

- a. Here we see the heart of Jesus. He teaches by every word and act. His disciples, and us. Chapter 13—humility—verse 5; cleansing—verse 10; love—verse 34.

Chapter 14—comfort, His second coming—verses 1-6; promise of the Holy Spirit—read verses 16-18 and 26:

Chapter 15—abiding in Christ—verses 7-9; another promise of the Holy Spirit—verses 26-27:

Chapter 16—the work of the Spirit—verses 7-11; new truth revealed by the Holy Spirit—verses 12-14:

Chapter 17—the Lord’s Prayer—note verses 11, 17, 21, 24.

- b. Notice in all this section that Jesus promises the coming of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus will send after He ascends as the Comforter who comes from the Father. The Holy Spirit always glorifies Jesus, not Himself (the Holy Spirit). The Holy Spirit is our teacher our guide, our Comforter—(Chapters 13—17).

### His Suffering and Death—John 18-19

- a. From the prayer of chapter 17, Jesus goes to the garden of Gethsemane (John 18:1 “a garden”) followed by His arrest—trials—scourging—crucifixion—death. Not one of these experiences did Jesus try to delay or avoid. The “Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief: (Isaiah 53:3) was “obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:8).
- b. His Jewish trial before Annas, the High Priest—John 18:12-14; 19-23. His Roman Trial before Pilate—John 18:28-38
  - Before Herod—Luke 23:6-12
  - Before Pilate again—John 18:39—19:36
- c. His death—you should remember these six things:
  1. His identity—John 19:19
  2. His garments—John 19:23
  3. His mother—John 19:25-27
  4. His death—John 19:28-30
  5. His death verified—John 19:36 (from Old Testament)
  6. His body buried—John 19:38-42 (note Nicodemus is mentioned in verse 39) Only John records “It is finished.”

### Victory Over Death—John 20—21

- a. On the third day the tomb was empty and He came out of the grave with a spiritual body. He appeared ten different times after His resurrection—the seventh one being to Thomas (read John 20:28).

- b. His last word of instruction is to Peter and to us "Follow thou me. . .till I come" (John 21:22).

### The Major Differences in John's Gospel

a. Omissions in the gospel of John:

- No genealogy is recorded at all (as Matthew and Luke)
- No account of His birth—because He was "in the beginning"
- Nothing about His boyhood
- Nothing about His temptation
- Nothing about His transfiguration
- No account of the ascension
- No great commission (Read John 21:25 and see how much is not written)

b. The Three Keys to John's gospel—

- John 20:31
- John 16:28
- John 1:12

c. A Remarkable Parallel- There is a remarkable parallel between the furniture of the tabernacle and the gospel of John. The approach to God is one and the same in both. John leads us in exactly the same order as those seven articles of furniture to the great spiritual realities which they typify. He begins in chapter 1 by leading us to the Brazen Altar of sacrifice—"Behold the Lamb of God. . ." (John 1:29). In chapter 3 he takes us to the Laver of Cleansing and Renewal—"Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit" (John 3:5). In chapters 4—6 he takes us to the Table of Shewbread with its food and drink concerning "living water" (John 4:14) and "the living Bread" (John 6:51). In chapters 8 and 9 John takes us to the Golden Candlestick for twice we hear Jesus say, "I am the Light of the world" (John 8:1; 9:5). In chapters 14—16 we are at the golden Altar of Incense learning to pray—prayers like a fragrant incense when breathed in the name of Him, our Lord (John 14:13-14; 16:23-24). In the seventeenth chapter—the great intercessory prayer of Jesus, our High Priest, we are taken through the "veil" into the Holy of Holies—all of John 17. In chapters 18 and 19 we see Calvary—how Jesus is the Ark of the Covenant and the Mercy Seat sprinkled with His own blood—promising in chapter 20 to return to His Father and our Father and to His God and our God. So you will not forget this Old Testament teaching in reference to Christ—we diagram it for you:

Furniture of Tabernacle	Symbolical Meaning in Old Testament	Typical Meaning
The Brazen Altar	Atonement thru sacrifice	Atonement of Christ on Cross
The Laver	Spiritual renewal	Christ cleansing us of "spot & wrinkle"
Table of Shewbread	Spiritual nourishment	Christ as our Living Bread
Golden Candlestick	Illumination	Christ—our Light
Altar of Incense	To ask humbly	Prayer in Name of Jesus
The Ark	Access only thru High Priest	Christ our Access to God
The Mercy Seat	Vindication thru Blood Sacrifice	Christ is Mercy Seat --"Propitiation" --Romans 3:25

d. The even "I AM'S Jesus reveals His deity—His God nature in these sayings:

1. "I AM the bread of life":--John 6:35
2. "I AM the light of the world"—John 8:12

3. "Before Abraham was, I AM"—John 8:58
4. "I AM the Good Shepherd"—John 10:11
5. "I AM the resurrection and the life"—John 11:25
6. "I AM the way, the truth, and the life:"--John 14:6
7. "I AM the true vine"—John 15:1

There is so much we have had to leave out of this lesson—but may I encourage you to read and mark your Bible from the material in this lesson.

How much do you Remember?

1. How does John present Christ?
2. Did Jesus begin at Bethlehem?
3. Give three other names for Jesus.
4. What does "incarnate" mean?
5. Where is the Lord's Intercessory Prayer found?